

REMARKS

Claims 22 and 25 have been amended. Claims 22-27 are still pending.

First, even though Applicant does not agree with the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection, Applicant will file a terminal disclaimer after all the other rejections have been overcome.

Brady

Claims 22-23 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,137,044 to Brady ("Brady"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 22 and 25 have been amended to recite, among other limitations, that the support frame has a single frame member, and that the covering has the same configuration as the frame member. In contrast, the layer 22b in Brady is draped over two separate hoops 42a, 42b, and does not have the same configuration as either of the individual hoops 42a, 42b. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22 and 25, and claims 23-24 and 26-27 depending therefrom, are allowable over Brady.

Hazinski

Claims 22-23 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,645,096 to Hazinski et al. ("Hazinski"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 22 and 25 have been amended to recite, among other limitations, that the support frame has a single frame member, and that the covering has the same configuration as the frame member. In contrast, the fly 40 in Hazinski does not have the same configuration as the loop 12. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22 and 25, and claims 23-24 and 26-27 depending therefrom, are allowable over Hazinski.

Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 6-42227 ("JP") in view of Brady. Claims 22-27 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,301,705 to Zheng ("Zheng") in view of Brady. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

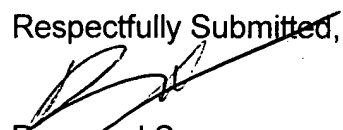
In both of these rejections, the Examiner acknowledges that JP and Zheng do not teach a covering placed over a support frame, and cites Brady as disclosing a covering layer 22b. However, as explained above, independent claims 22 and 25 have been amended to recite that the support frame has a single frame member, and that the covering has the same configuration as the frame member. In contrast, the layer 22b in

Brady is draped over two separate hoops 42a, 42b, and does not have the same configuration as either of the individual hoops 42a, 42b. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22 and 25, and claims 23-24 and 26-27 depending therefrom, are allowable over any attempted combination of JP, Zheng and Brady.

* * *

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-27 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to phone the undersigned if there are informal matters that can be resolved in a phone conversation or by Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: July 7, 2004

By:


Raymond Sun